(b) The Ministry called for the views of various organisations on the best and logical method of declaring the sale price on the package so that interest of all sections of the society including the consumers are well protected. A number of comments have been received and a committee has been constituted to study the issue in detail. *656. [Tratisferred to 4th March, 1994]*

Strike in Coal Industry

657. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the five Central Trade Unions called for a token strike in coal industry on 31st January last to press for their ten point charter of demands including the implementation of pension scheme in full with effect from April. 1989;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI A J IT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of informal and formal discussions between the coal companies and the five trade unions, four unions viz. INTUC, AITUC, HMS & BMS decided to defer the strike to 14.2.94. Subsequently a meeting was held with the representatives of these four unions by the Minister of Labour and they withdrew the strike call. The unions affiliated to CITU served their strike notice in different subsidiary eompanie-. on 14.1.94 and resorted to the Strike on 31.1.94.

Budgetary allocation to Coal Sectors

658. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation made by Government to Coal Sectors during each of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any external assistance was also sought during the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJTT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c). The budgetary allocations made by the Government in Coal Sector and External Assistance which was rou'ed through the budget during each of the last three years viz., 1990-91 to 1992-93 were as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

	Gross budget Support	External Assistance routed through Budget
1990-91	896.00	349.00
1991-92	648.00	159.50
1992-93	600.00	377.00

The Indian Coal Industry presently gets technical/financial co-operation from France, Germany, United Kingdom (UK), Canada, Australia, Erstwhile USSR and Poland.

The primary objective of seeking collaboration in coal Sector is to :—

(i) Procure sophisticated high capacity equipments including machinery for mining.

(ii) acquire and absorb modern mining technology;

(iii) train personnel in the improved techniques.